

## NEW YORK TIMES

13 March 1982

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4DEMOCRATS ASSAIL REAGAN INTELLIGENCE POLICIES

4BY ANDREW J. GLASS

4C. 1982 Cox News Service

WASHINGTON - A FRUSTRATED GROUP OF KEY DEMOCRATS ON CAPITOL HILL  
CONTEND THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD LITTLE OR NOTHING ABOUT WHAT PRESIDENT  
REAGAN INTENDS TO DO IN LATIN AMERICA.

THEIR COMPLAINTS FOCUS ON WHAT THEY SEE AS A DEARTH OF INTELLIGENCE  
DATA BEING SUPPLIED TO THE LEGISLATORS AS WELL AS A LACK OF CANDID  
BRIEFINGS ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICIES IN THIS CRITICAL REGION.

THEIR GROWING RESTIVENESS, WHICH CAME TO LIGHT IN A SERIES OF  
INTERVIEWS LAST WEEK, APPEARS TO THREATEN ANY SEMBLANCE OF A  
COORDINATED BIPARTISAN APPROACH TOWARD MOUNTING PROBLEMS IN EL  
SALVADOR AND ELSEWHERE IN THE CARIBBEAN BASIN.

"THERE HAVE BEEN NO BRIEFINGS ABOUT LATIN AMERICA," SEN. GARY  
HART, D-COLO., SAID. "WHAT WE HAVE HEARD HAS BEEN CURSORY AND  
BLAND."

HART, A MEMBER OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES AND A POTENTIAL  
DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IN 1984, SAID: "A KIND OF  
ATTITUDINAL DISTAIN FOR CONGRESS EXISTS IN THIS ADMINISTRATION. AT  
BOTTOM, THEY REGARD ALL PEOPLE IN CONGRESS AS IRRELEVANT BUFFOONS."

HART'S VIEWS, IF NOT HIS SHARP RHETORIC, WERE ECHOED BY ANOTHER  
SENATE DEMOCRAT, JOSEPH BIDEN OF DELAWARE. SPEAKING HERE TO THE  
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS  
ASSOCIATION, A GROUP OF LEADING NEWS EXECUTIVES, BIDEN REPORTEDLY  
CASTIGATED REAGAN'S ADVISERS FOR FAILING TO SHARE ANY HARD DATA ON  
THE INCREASINGLY VOLATILE SITUATION IN LATIN AMERICA WITH THE SENATE  
INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE, ON WHICH BIDEN SERVES.

BIDEN SUGGESTED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION COULD END UP PAYING A HIGH  
PRICE FOR ITS LACK OF CANDOR. HIS REMARKS WERE CONFIRMED BY HIS PRESS  
SECRETARY, PETER SMITH.

ONE FOCAL POINT FOR THE DEMOCRATIC UNEASE IS A RESOLUTION INTRODUCED  
LAST MONTH BY SEN. CHRISTOPHER DODD OF CONNECTICUT, A MEMBER OF THE  
INTELLIGENCE PANEL, CALLING FOR THE UNITED STATES TO ENCOURAGE  
UNCONDITIONAL NEGOTIATIONS FOR A CEASE-FIRE IN EL SALVADOR. THAT  
APPROACH IS STRONGLY OPPOSED BY SECRETARY OF STATE ALEXANDER M. HAIG  
JR., WHO CONTENDS THAT CUBA AND NICARAGUA ARE TRYING TO FOMENT AN  
ANTI-AMERICAN MARXIST UPRHEAVAL IN THE CARIBBEAN BASIN.